

based on § 102(f)/§ 103 would be traversed on the basis that the hollow boss of the present invention was not derived from the Whittlestone prototype, as seen in the McKendry Declaration submitted herewith. *See, Oddzon Products, Inc. v. Just Toys, Inc.*, 122 F.3d 1396 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Like the Whittlestone patent, though, the Whittlestone device does not have the claimed manifold assembly of the present invention.

Claim 10, which includes a hollow boss, has been amended to describe the boss with more structure, as suggested at the interview. Applicants also believe that the claim is patentable over the references cited in paragraph 3 of the office action, for the reasons described at the interview.

Claim 7 stands rejected under § 102 on the basis of Wilson. At the interview, applicants' attorney indicated that claim 7 would be canceled, but on further consideration, applicant believes that claim 7 is allowable over Wilson for the following reasons.

Claim 7 defines an air pump having, among other things, a motor having a shaft that oscillates a diaphragm in a back-and-forth motion. In Wilson, a cable moves a diaphragm in one direction only. The cable returns to its original position through a spring 125. Thus, the invention of claim 7 is different from the cited reference. In addition, the invention of claim 7 eliminates the spring 125, giving greater power to the pump and probably a longer useful life, as well. The invention of claim 7 also eliminates the linkage seen in the Whittlestone patent. For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

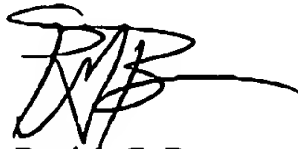
Claim 6, while allowed, has been amended to more clearly define the invention, in light of the examiner's comments at the interview. Claim 6 now describes translation of rotational energy into axial energy using threads, a feature not found in any of the references of record. For this reason, applicants believe that claim 6 is still directed to allowable subject matter.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 6 and 10 were amended as follows:

6. (Amended) An air pump comprising a movable diaphragm in a chamber, at least one output port, a shaft ~~which passes through~~ operatively connected to said diaphragm and a motor which ~~moves~~ oscillates said diaphragm axially by means of said shaft, said motor being coupled to said diaphragm through threaded engagement that translates motor rotation into diaphragm oscillation ~~rotating around the axis of said shaft.~~

10. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for expressing milk from a breast comprising:

a milk collector unit having a manifold assembly, the manifold assembly having a vacuum path and a pulsating pressure path,

a collection vessel operatively connected to said vacuum path,

a cup assembly, said cup assembly having a housing having an inlet and an outlet, a pad located in the input end of said housing, and a liner extending from said housing inlet to said housing outlet, said liner being secured to said housing to form a space between said housing and said liner which is in communication with said pulsating pressure

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09/591,981

path, pressure in said pulsating path ~~pushing moving~~ said liner ~~inwardly within~~ said housing,
and

the manifold assembly having a hollow boss which prevents the pressure from
pushing a portion of said liner inwardly. extends into the outlet within the liner.